

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 17 to 20 have been added.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 13 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 to 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 36 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Romero et al. (US 5,186,472) in view of Hintenlang (US 6,062,571). Claims 7 and 9 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Romero et al. (US '472) and Hintenlang and further in view of Peisket et al. (US 4,501,431). Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Romero (US 4,936,591) in view of Hintenlang. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Romero et al. (US '472) and Hintenlang and further in view of Besson et al. (US 6,401,843).

Independent claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended to recite that the dynamic sealing element is made of a second material "having a higher thermal stability" than the static sealing element. Support for these amendments can be found for example in the specification at paragraphs [0014] and [0015]. This permits for several advantages as discussed in paragraphs [0014] and [0015]. It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art recites this feature.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) thus is respectfully requested.


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Amdt. dated July 13, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2004

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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